World Health Report on Infant and Maternal Mortality

*516. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released World Health Report places India in the list of 51 slow progressing countries as far as infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality is concerned;

(b) whether the report has estimated 1,36,000 maternal and 1 million new-born deaths in India every year; and

(c) whether according to the report, one in every three malnourished children lives in India and about 50 per cent of all childhood deaths in India are attributable to malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) According to the "World Health Report 2005" published by the World Health Organization, India is among 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing mortality among children under 5 years of age. The report further states that these 51 countries will need to accelerate their efforts for achieving the decline in mortality rates over the next 10 years for achieving the millennium development goals on infant and maternal mortality rates.

(b) Country specific data on number of maternal and newborn deaths has not been given in this Report. However, in other publications of the World Health Organisation, it has been estimated that 1,36,000 maternal deaths and 1.0 million new born deaths take place in India every year. Based on estimates of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) provided under the SRS-1998 of Registrar General of India, it is estimated that about 1,12,000 maternal deaths take place in India every year. Further, based on the SRS 2002 data on Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (NNMR) provided by the Registrar General of India, it, is estimated that about 1.1 million new born deaths take place every year.

(c) The World Health Report does not specifically mention about incidence of malnutrition in individual countries. The Report, however, mentions that over half of all child deaths occur in children who are under

weight and thus malnourished. In India the National Family Health Survey-ll, (1998-99) has estimated that about 30% of all new borns are under weight at birth.

Water supplied to Railway coaches

*517. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the mechanism for filling water in the coaches;

(b) whether any quality check is done on water supplied to the Railways especially water supplied to the pantry cars in various trains; and

(c) what is the process and what are the results thereof

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The water tanks in the coaches are filled using flexible pipes connected to the main water pipe line provided for the purpose at nominated locations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Water supplied for various applications like taps on platforms and other passenger areas, for filling in coaches including pantry cars etc. is periodically tested by Railway's Medical Department for bacteriological fitness and residua! chlorine content for potability. Generally 90% to 92% samples are found conforming to standards. Results of remaining tests are analysed and necessary corrective measures are taken.

Electrification of rail routes in Assam

*518. SHRI URKHAOGWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not extending the provision of electrification of rail routes towards Assam, the gateway of North-Eastern-Region;

(b) whether Government would contemplate any policy to extend electrification on any part of the rail routes in the region in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?